

DEC

The weakness cannot return any thing of strength, honour, or safety to the head, but a debilitation and ruin. *K. Charles.*
DEBILITY. *n. f.* [deblitas, Latin.] Weakness; feebleness; languor; faintness; imbecility.
 Methinks I am partaker of thy passion,
 And in thy case do grieve mine own debility.
 Aliment too vaporous or perspirable will subject it to the inconveniences of too strong a perspiration, which are debility, faintings, and sometimes sudden death. *Arbutn. on Alim.*
DEBONAIRE. *adj.* [debonnaire, Fr.] Elegant; civil; well-bred; gentle; complaisant.
 Crying, let be that lady debonaire,
 Thou recreant knight, and soon thyself prepare
 To battle, if thou mean her love to gain. *Fairy Queen.*
 He met her once a maying,
 There on beds of violets blue,
 And fresh blown roses wash'd in dew,
 Fill'd her with thee, a daughter fair,
 So buxom, blithe, and debonaire. *Milton.*
 The nature of the one is debonaire and accessible; of the other, retired and supercilious; the one quick and sprightly, the other slow and saturnine. *Hazell's Vocal Forest.*
 And the that was not only passing fair,
 But was withal discreet and debonaire,
 Relov'd the passive doctrine to fulfil. *Dryden's Nani's Priest.*
DEBONAIRELY. *adv.* [from debonaire.] Elegantly; with a gentle air.
DEBT. *n. f.* [debitum, Latin; dette, French.]
 1. That which one man owes to another.
 There was one that died greatly in debt; well, says one, if he be gone, then he hath carried five hundred ducats of mine with him into the other world. *Bacon's Apophth. 141.*
 The debt of ten thousand talents, which the servant owed the king, was no slight ordinary sum. *Dryden's Devotions.*
 To this great loss a sea of tears is due;
 But the whole debt not to be paid by you. *Waller.*
 Above a thousand pounds in debt,
 Takes horse, and in a mighty fret
 Rides day and night. *Swift.*
 2. That which any one is obliged to do or suffer.
 Your son, my lord, has paid a soldier's debt;
 He only liv'd but 'till he was a man,
 But like a man he died. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
DEBTED. *part.* [from debt. To DEBT is not found.] Indebted; obliged to.
 Which do amount to three odd ducats more
 Than I stand debted to this gentleman. *Shak. Com. of Errors.*
DEBTOR. *n. f.* [debitor, Latin.]
 1. He that owes something to another.
 I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, both to the wife and to the unwise. *Ro. i. 14.*
 The case of debtors in Rome, for the first four centuries, was, after the set time for payment, no choice but either to pay, or be the creditor's slave. *Swift.*
 2. One that owes money.
 I'll bring your latter hazard back again,
 And thankfully rest debtor for the first. *Shak. Merch. of Ven.*
 If he his ample palm
 Should haply on ill-fated shoulder lay
 Of debtor, 'twould his body, to the touch
 Obsequious, as whilom knights were wont,
 To some enchanted castle is convey'd. *Philips.*
 There dy'd my father, no man's debtor;
 And there I'll die, nor worse, nor better. *Pope's Horace.*
 3. One side of an account-book.
 When I look upon the debtor side, I find such innumerable articles, that I want arithmetick to cast them up; but when I look upon the creditor side, I find little more than blank paper. *Addison's Spectator, N^o. 549.*
DEBULLITION. *n. f.* [debullitio, Lat.] A bubbling or seething over. *Diët.*
DEBACU'NATED. *adj.* [debacuinatus, Latin.] Having the top cut off. *Diët.*
DECADE. *n. f.* [decas, Gr. decas, Latin.] The sum of ten; a number containing ten.
 Men were not only out in the number of some days, the latitude of a few years, but might be wide by whole olympiads, and divers decades of years. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
 We make cycles and periods of years; as decades, centuries, and chiliads, chiefly for the use of computations in history, chronology, and astronomy. *Holder on Time.*
 All rank'd by ten; whole decades, when they dine,
 Must want a Trojan slave to pour the wine. *Pope's Iliad.*
DECADENCY. *n. f.* [decadence, French.] Decay; fall. *Diët.*
DECAGON. *n. f.* [from decas, ten, and gona, a corner.] A plain figure in geometry, having ten sides and angles.
DECALOGUE. *n. f.* [decalogus, Greek.] The ten commandments given by God to Moses.
 The commands of God are clearly revealed both in the decalogue and other parts of sacred writ. *Hammond.*
TO DECA'MP. *v. n.* [decampere, French.] To shift the camp; to move off.

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DECA'MPMENT. *n. f.* [from decamp.] The act of shifting the camp.
TO DECA'NT. *v. a.* [decanti, Lat. decanter, Fr.] To pour off gently by inclination.
 I take aqua fortis, and dissolve in it ordinary coined silver, and pour the coloured solution into twelve times as much fair water, and then decant or filtrate the mixture, that it may be very clear. *Boyle.*
 They attend him daily as their chief,
 Decant his wine, and carve his beef. *Swift.*
DECANTATION. *n. f.* [decantation, Fr.] The act of decanting or pouring off clear.
DECANTER. *n. f.* [from decant.] A glass vessel made for pouring off liquor clear from the lees.
TO DECA'PITATE. *v. a.* [decapito, Latin.] To behead.
TO DECA'Y. *v. n.* [decevoir, Fr. from de and cadere, Latin.] To lose excellence; to decline from the state of perfection; to be gradually impaired.
 The monarch oak
 Three centuries grows, and three he stays
 Supreme in state, and in three more decays. *Dryden.*
 The garlands of death, the vows are worn away;
 So dies her love, and so my hopes decay. *Pope.*
TO DECA'Y. *v. a.* To impair; to bring to decay.
 Infirmit, that decays the wife, doth ever make better the fool. *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.*
 Cut off a flock of a tree, and lay that which you cut off to putrefy, to see whether it will decay the rest of the flock. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 995.*
 He was of a very small and decayed fortune, and of no good education. *Clarendon.*
 Decay'd by time and wars, they only prove
 Their former beauty by your former love. *Dryden.*
 In Spain our springs, like old men's children, be
 Decay'd and wither'd from their infancy. *Dryd. Ind. Emp.*
 It is so ordered, that almost every thing which corrupts the soul decays the body. *Addison's Guardian, N^o. 120.*
DECA'Y. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
 1. Decline from the state of perfection; state of diminution.
 What comfort to this great decay may come,
 Shall be applied. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
 She has been a fine lady, and paints and hides
 Her decays very well. *Pen. Johnson's Catiline.*
 And those decays, to speak the naked truth,
 Through the defects of age, were crimes of youth. *Darham.*
 By reason of the tenacity of fluids, and attrition of their parts, and the weakness of elasticity in solids, motion is much more apt to be lost than got, and is always upon the decay. *Newton.*
 Each may feel encrease and decay;
 And see now clearer and now darker days. *Essay on Criticism.*
 Taught half by reason, half by mere decay,
 To welcome death, and calmly pass away. *Pope.*
 2. The effects of diminution; the marks of decay.
 They think, that whatever is called old must have the decay of time upon it, and truth too were liable to mould and rottenness. *Locke.*
 3. Declension from prosperity.
 And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee, then thou shalt relieve him. *Levit. xxv. 35.*
 I am the very man,
 That, from your first of difference and decay,
 Have follow'd your sad steps. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
DECAYER. *n. f.* [from decay.] That which causes decay.
 Your water is a fore decayer of your whorson dead body. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*
DECE'ASE. *n. f.* [decessus, Lat.] Death; departure from life.
 Lands are by human law, in some places, after the owner's decease, divided unto all his children; in some, all descendeth to the eldest son. *Hobbes, b. i. sect. 10.*
TO DECE'ASE. *v. n.* [decedo, Latin.] To die; to depart from life.
 He tells us Arthur is deceas'd to-night. *Shak. King John.*
 You shall die
 Twice now, where others, that mortality
 In her fair arms holds, shall but once decease. *Chapm. Odys.*
 His latest victories still thickest came,
 As, near the centre, motion doth increase:
 'Till he, press'd down by his own weighty name,
 Did, like the vestal, under spoils decease. *Dryden.*
DECEIT. *n. f.* [deceptio, Latin.]
 1. Fraud; a cheat; a fallacy; any practice by which falsehood is made to pass for truth.
 My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit. *Job, xxvii. 4.*
 2. Stratagem; artifice.
 His demand
 Springs not from Edward's well-meant honest love,
 But from deceit, bred by necessity. *Shakespeare's Henry VI.*
 [In law.] A subtle wily shift or device; all manner of craft, subtilty, guile, fraud, wiliness, shiftness, cunning, covin, collusion, practice and offence, used to deceive another man by any means, which hath no other proper or particular name but offence. *C. vel.*
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DECEITFUL. *adj.* [deceit and full.] Fraudulent; full of deceit.
 I grant him bloody,
 Luxurious, avaricious, false, deceitful,
 Sudden, malicious, smacking of every sin
 That has a name. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
 The lovely young Lavinia once had friends,
 And fortune smil'd, deceitful, on her birth. *Thomson's Autumn.*
DECEITFULLY. *adv.* [from deceitful.] Fraudulently; with deceit.
 Exercise of form may be deceitfully dispatched of course. *Watson.*
DECEITFULNESS. *n. f.* [from deceitful.] The quality of being fraudulent; tendency to deceive.
 The care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches,
 choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. *Mat. xiii. 22.*
DECEIVABLE. *adj.* [from deceive.]
 1. Subject to fraud; exposed to imposture.
 Man was not only deceivable in his integrity, but the angels of light in all their clarity. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. i. c. 1.*
 How would thou use me now, blind, and thereby
 Deceivable, in most things as a child
 Helpless; hence easily condemn'd and scorn'd,
 And last neglected. *Milton's Agonistes, l. 938.*
 2. Subject to produce error; deceitful.
 It is good to consider of deformity, not as a sign, which is more deceivable, but as a cause which seldom faileth of the effect. *Bacon's Essays.*
 He received nothing but fair promises, which proved deceivable. *Hayward.*
 O overfalling trust
 In mortal strength! And oh, what not in man
 Deceivable and vain? *Milton's Agonistes, l. 348.*
DECEIVABLENESS. *n. f.* [from deceivable.] Liableness to be deceived.
 He that has a great patron, has the advantage of his negligence and deceivableness. *Government of the Tongue, f. 8.*
TO DECEIVE. *v. a.* [decepio, Latin.]
 1. To cause to mistake; to bring into error; to impose upon.
 Some have been apt to be deceived into an opinion, that there was a natural or divine right of primogeniture to both estate and power. *Locke.*
 2. To delude by stratagem.
 3. To cut off from expectation.
 The Turkish general, deceived of his expectation, withdrew his fleet twelve miles off. *Knolles's History of the Turks.*
 I now believ'd
 The happy day approach'd, nor are my hopes deceiv'd. *Dryd.*
 4. To mock; to fail.
 They rais'd a feeble cry with trembling notes,
 But the weak voice deceiv'd their gasping throats. *Dryd. En.*
DECEIVER. *n. f.* [from deceive.] One that leads another into error; a cheat.
 Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more;
 Men were deceivers ever;
 One foot in sea, and one on shore;
 To one thing constant never. *Shak. Much ado about Nothing.*
 As for his diminution out of France, they interpreted it not as if he were detected, or neglected for a counterfeit deceiver. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
 Those voices, actions or gestures, which men have not by any compact agreed to make the instruments of conveying their thoughts one to another, are not the proper instruments of deceiving, so as to denominate the person using them a lyar or deceiver. *South's Sermons.*
 It is to be admired how any deceiver can be so weak to forget things near at hand, when a very few months must of necessity discover the imposture. *Swift's Predictions.*
 Adieu, the heart-expanding bowl,
 And all the kind deceivers of the soul. *Pope's Horace.*
DECEMBER. *n. f.* [december, Latin.] The last month of the year; but named december, or the tenth month, when the year began in March.
 Men are April when they woo, and December when they wed. *Shakespeare's As you like it.*
 What should we speak of,
 When we are old as you? When we shall hear
 The rain and wind beat dark December. *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*
DECEMPEDAL. *adj.* [from decempeda, Latin.] Ten feet in length. *Diët.*
DECEMPVIRATE. *n. f.* [decempviratus, Lat.] The dignity and office of the ten governors of Rome, who were appointed to rule the commonwealth instead of consuls. Their authority subsisted only two years.
DECE'NCE. *n. f.* [deceance, French; decet, Latin.]
DECE'NCY. *n. f.* [deceance, French; decet, Latin.]
 1. Propriety of form; proper formality; becoming ceremony.
 Those thousand decencies, that daily flow
 From all her words and actions. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
 In good works there may be goodness in the general; but decency and gracefulness can be only in the particulars in doing the good. *Sprat's Sermons.*
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Were the offices of religion stript of all the external decencies of worship, they would not make a due impression on the minds of those who assist at them. *Autorbury's Sermons.*
 She speaks, behaves, and acts just as she ought;
 But never, never reached generous thought:
 Virtue finds too painful an endeavour,
 Content to dwell in decencies for ever. *Pope.*
 2. Suitableness to character; propriety.
 And must I own, she said, my secret smart?
 What with more decency were in silence kept. *Dryden's En.*
 The next consideration, immediately subsequent to the being of a thing, is what agrees or disagrees with that thing; what is suitable or unsuitable to it; and from this springs the notion of decency or indecency, that which becomes or misbecomes. *South's Sermons.*
 Sentiments which raise laughter, can very seldom be admitted with any decency into an heroic poem. *Addison's Spectator.*
 3. Modesty; not ribaldry; not obscenity.
 Immodest words admit of no decency;
 For want of decency is want of sense. *Roscommon.*
DECENNIAL. *adj.* [from decennium, Latin.] What continues for the space of ten years.
DECENNOVAL. *adj.* [decem and novem, Latin.] Relating to the number nineteen.
 Meton, of old, in the time of the Peloponnesian war, constituted a decennial circle, or of nineteen years; the same which we now call the golden number. *Holder on Time.*
 Seven months are retrenched in this whole decennovary progress of the epacts, to reduce the accounts of her motion and place to those of the sun. *Holder on Time.*
DECENT. *adj.* [decent, Lat.] Becoming; fit; suitable.
 Since there must be ornaments both in painting and poetry, if they are not necessary, they must at least be decent; that is, in their due place, and but moderately used. *Dryden.*
DECENTLY. *adv.* [from decent.] In a proper manner; with suitable behaviour; without meanness or ostentation.
 They could not decently refuse assistance to a person, who had punished those who had insulted their relation. *Broom.*
 2. Without immodesty.
 Past hope of safety, 'twas his latest care,
 Like falling Caesar, decently to die. *Dryden's Ann. Mirab.*
 He performs what friendship, justice, truth require;
 What could he more, but decently retire? *Swift.*
DECEPTIBILITY. *n. f.* [from decepti.] Liableness to be deceived.
 Some errors are so fleshed in us, that they maintain their interest upon the deceptibility of our decayed natures. *Glanville.*
DECEPTIBLE. *adj.* [from decepti.] Liable to be deceived; open to imposture; subject to fraud.
 The first and father cause of common error, is the common infirmity of human nature; of whose deceptible condition, perhaps, there should not need any other evicition than the frequent errors we shall ourselves commit. *Brown.*
DECEPTION. *n. f.* [deceptio, Latin.]
 1. The act or means of deceiving; cheat; fraud; fallacy.
 Being thus divided from truth in themselves, they are yet farther removed by adventitious deception. *Brown's Vulgar Err.*
 All deception is a misapplying of those signs, which, by compact or institution, were made the means of mens signifying or conveying their thoughts. *South's Sermons.*
 2. The state of being deceived.
 Reason, not impossibility, may meet
 Some specious object by the foe suborn'd,
 And fall into deception unaware. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
DECEPTIOUS. *adj.* [from decepti.] Deceitful; apt to deceive.
 Yet there is a credence in my heart,
 That doth invert th' attest of eyes and ears;
 As if those organs had deceptious functions,
 Created only to calumniate. *Shakespeare's Troil. and Cressida.*
DECEPTIVE. *adj.* [from decepti.] Having the power of deceiving. *Diët.*
DECEPTORY. *adj.* [from decepti.] Containing means of deceit. *Diët.*
DECERPT. *adj.* [decerptus, Lat.] Diminished; taken off. *Diët.*
DECERPTIBLE. *adj.* [decerpto, Latin.] That may be taken off. *Diët.*
DECERPTION. *n. f.* [from decerpti.] The act of lessening, or taking off. *Diët.*
DECERTATION. *n. f.* [decertatio, Latin.] A contention; a striving; a dispute. *Diët.*
DECESSION. *n. f.* [decessio, Latin.] A departure; a going away. *Diët.*
TO DECHA'RM. *v. a.* [decharmer, French.] To counteract a charm; to disenchant.
 Notwithstanding the help of physick, he was suddenly cured by decharming the witchcraft. *Harvey on Consumption.*
TO DECIDE. *v. a.* [decido, Latin.]
 1. To fix the event of; to determine.
 The day approach'd when fortune should decide
 Th' important enterprize, and give the bride. *Dryd. Fables.*
 2. To determine a question or dispute.
 In council off, and oft in battle tried,
 Betwixt thy master and the world decide. *Glanville.*
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